

*March 1861*

# **The Lincoln Library:**

**Its Genesis and Development.**

**Springfield, Illinois.**

NAMED IN HONOR OF  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
BY ANDREW CARNEGIE

*“In looking back, you never feel that upon any occasion, you have acted too generously, but you often regret that you did not.”*

ANDREW CARNEGIE.

THIS RECORDS  
THE GRATITUDE OF  
THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD TO  
ANDREW CARNEGIE.



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THE CULVER CONSTRUCTION CO., BUILDERS.

**LINCOLN LIBRARY**  
THE GIFT OF ANDREW CARNEGIE.

**The Library Board.**

GEORGE N. BLACK, *President.*  
WILLIAM JAYNE, *Vice President.*  
ABRAHAM TRAUGOTT, *Secretary-Treasurer.*  
JAMES P. BRYCE, *Librarian.*  
JOHN W. BUNN.  
HENRY W. CLENDENIN.  
RICHARD JONES.  
LEWIS H. MINER.  
ELDO R. SAYLER.

**Assistant Librarians**

MISS JESSIE A. CHURCHILL.  
MISS HANNAH STUART.  
MISS JENNIE C. FELDKAMP.  
MISS BERTHA R. BERGOLD.

# THE LINCOLN LIBRARY:

## Its Genesis and Development.

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The earliest public expression of the need of a Public Library Building in Springfield was voiced in a sermon, delivered upon the THOMAS STRAWBRIDGE FOUNDATION, by Rev. Edwin S. Walker, A. M., in the Central Baptist Church, on Sunday, October 9th, 1898.

The theme discussed was

### THE USES OF WEALTH.

In the lessons drawn, among others, was this lesson of admonition: "As citizens of the proud Capital City of Illinois, in which there is concentrated not a little wealth, we are sadly deficient in public spirit. We have not yet come to appreciate or understand what are the best uses of wealth. We are proud of our excellent system of Public Schools, now culminating in the new High School. To crown the system, we have a pressing need of a PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING, in which may be placed our City Library, now embracing upwards of 35,000 volumes, where it may be made available for use, not only by the comparatively few who at present avail themselves of its advantages. in the attic of the City Hall, where it is housed, but for the daily use and enjoyment of all our citizens.

I fondly imagine that the day may not be far distant, when some one or more of our men of wealth will donate, even while living, at least \$50,000 for the erection of a

### PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING.

It might be called "The Pasfield Library," "The Ridgely Library," "The Lawrence Library," "The Davis Library,"



"The Bunn Library," or "The Thayer Library," or by the name of whoever may first make himself eligible to the honor of its erection, by the contribution of the needed \$50,000."

The need continued to be felt, but the suggestion, made as above, elicited no response from any of our citizens.

More than a year elapsed after this public expression was made before any further action was taken.

On December 16th, 1899, Mayor Loren E. Wheeler addressed a communication to Mr. Andrew Carnegie, soliciting from him his favor in the establishment of a PUBLIC LIBRARY, and closed his appeal in behalf of our citizens, saying: "Should you consider this location, the City of Springfield would donate to you the entire library, as it now exists, 35,000 volumes, and leave it to you to use what we have as you deemed best."

To this letter no response was ever made.

On the 9th of February, 1901, more than a year subsequent to the date of his letter, the Mayor addressed to Mr. Carnegie a brief note, calling his attention to the unanswered letter, enclosing a copy of the same, saying: "I know of nothing to add to the letter already written, unless you have some requests which you would like to have complied with."

To this note, no reply was ever made.

The following letter was the next step towards the procurement of the new Library Building:

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., February 9, 1901.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE,

New York City, N. Y.

"MY DEAR SIR—In view of your recent benefactions to several of our western cities, making provision for the erection of public library buildings therein, I venture to address you in behalf of the City of Springfield, the Capital City of Illinois.

"I hold no official position, but am a retired minister of

the Baptist denomination, resident of the city for the last thirty years, and interested in whatever may be conducive to the intellectual advancement of our people, in all substantial culture. I will therefore set before you, as briefly as possible, the facts in our case:

"The population of the city is 35,000, and we have an excellent public school system, with twelve ward schools and a High School, in which there are enrolled and in attendance 6,000 pupils.

"We have a Public Library, consisting of 44,000 volumes, to the maintenance of which the city has in recent years contributed \$5,000 annually. During the last year there have been over 200,000 volumes drawn from its shelves for reading.

"In October, 1898, in a sermon delivered by myself, upon the 'Thomas Strawbridge Foundation,' upon 'The Uses of Wealth'—a copy of which I enclose herewith—it will be seen on pages eleven and twelve, that the pressing need of a Public Library Building was therein set forth.

"That need is emphasized today in the fact that in two and a half years the number of volumes has increased from 35,000 to 44,000, and it is still housed in the fourth story, or attic, of the City Hall.

"As the home of Abraham Lincoln, the monument to whose memory has, during the last year, been entirely reconstructed at a cost of \$100,000, this city is visited every year by many thousands from all over the world, and a Library Building which would meet the needs of our people would, through all coming time, serve to perpetuate the memory of its generous founder.

"In case of your favorable consideration of this application, this city will, I am assured, through the constituted authorities, pledge the sum of six thousand dollars annually for the support of the Library, and furnish an eligible site upon which to erect the Library Building.

"In behalf of our citizens, and of the generations to follow us, I therefore solicit from you the sum of sixty thousand dollars, *or such sum as you may regard as commensurate*, for the erection of a Public Library Building in the city of Springfield, to bear such name as you may designate, in connection with your generous benefaction.

"All of which I respectfully submit, and of which I ask your kind consideration.

Very truly yours,  
EDWIN SAWYER WALKER."

To this letter the following reply was received:

Andrew Carnegie,  
5 West 51st Street,  
New York.

12th February, 1901.

REV. E. S. WALKER,  
Springfield, Ill.

DEAR SIR—Mr. Carnegie would be disposed to act upon your suggestion if the city authorities see fit to take up the matter, as stated in the latter part of your letter. The home of Lincoln has claims upon every American, Mr. Carnegie adds, indeed on every good man.

Respectfully yours,  
JAS. BERTRAM,  
P. Secretary.

The publication of this correspondence in the Illinois State Register, and in the Illinois State Journal, on the morning of the 15th of February created a genuine surprise, and was greeted throughout the city with the greatest enthusiasm.

The State Register, in a later issue, said: "Not for many years has our city been so stirred by anything, as by the correspondence between Mr. Andrew Carnegie and the Rev. Edwin S. Walker, which was fully published only in the State Register on Friday last."

Late in the afternoon of Friday, a meeting of the City Council was called by the Mayor, of which meeting Mr. Walker had no notice, and at which he was not present. The correspondence of Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Walker was all there was on which to base any action.

A hastily drawn ordinance was passed, pledging the sum of \$10,000 annually, for the support of the Library, it being assumed in advance that Mr. Carnegie would make his



gift \$100,000, and proffer was made of a site for the proposed building.

Upon more mature consideration, the ordinance, as passed, was found to be so imperfect as not to meet the end in view, and it was thereafter repealed, by the passage of a new one, which fully met the case.

The following communications were addressed to Mr. Carnegie, extending the grateful thanks of the citizens of Springfield for his prompt and generous response to Mr. Walker's letter of the 9th of February.

It will be noted in the first of these two communications that the name, "The Lincoln-Carnegie Memorial Library," was first suggested by Mr. Walker; and in his letter of the 11th of March following, Mr. Carnegie adopted Mr. Walker's suggestion, but modestly eliminating from the proposed name the two words, "Carnegie Memorial."

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., Feb. 16, 1901.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE,

New York City.

MY DEAR SIR—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your kind favor of the 12th inst. in relation to the matter of a contribution for the erection of a Public Library in this city, and in behalf of our citizens, to extend to you their grateful thanks for your prompt and generous response to my former letter.

I enclose herewith a cutting from the Illinois State Register of yesterday, the publication of which called forth the most enthusiastic expression of satisfaction from our people of all classes.

You will note the editorial comments which follow the correspondence, and I will add that, at a Special Meeting of our City Council, held on last evening, an ordinance was passed, pledging the sum of \$10,000 annually, for the support of the Library, and steps were also taken to secure immediately the best location in our city, as a site for the proposed building.

In honor of our immortal Lincoln, and in grateful acknowledgment of the benefaction of the founder, I trust it

may not be deemed gratuitous for me to suggest that the name, "The Lincoln-Carnegie Memorial Library" would serve to transmit to the coming generations the memory of men who lived, not for themselves alone, but for their fellowmen.

Very truly and gratefully yours,

EDWIN SAWYER WALKER.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., February 26, 1901.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE,

New York City.

DEAR SIR—In my letter of the 16th instant, I stated that our City Council had, on the previous evening, passed an ordinance pledging the sum of \$10,000 annually for the support of the Public Library in this city. In the copy of said ordinance sent to you, it will be seen that the amount of \$10,000 is pledged, upon the condition of a donation from you of \$100,000 for the erection of a Public Library Building, and fails to meet the conditions submitted by me, in my letter of Feb. 9th, asking in behalf of the citizens of Springfield a contribution of the sum of sixty thousand dollars, viz., the pledging of the sum of \$6,000 annually by the constituted authorities for the support of the Library, and which you so promptly and generously indicated a willingness to contribute.

The ordinance was improperly drawn, and passed upon the spur of the moment, and, hence, fails to express what was intended, viz., the acceptance of your proffered gift, with the request that it might be increased to One Hundred Thousand Dollars.

In behalf, therefore, of the citizens of Springfield, I most respectfully ask that you increase the amount of your proposed benefaction to One Hundred Thousand Dollars, as a sum properly commensurate with the size and growing importance of our Capital City of Illinois.

In any case, the conditions which you attach to such gift will be fully and promptly met, whether the sum be Sixty Thousand or One Hundred Thousand Dollars.

I enclose a copy of a revised ordinance, to be submitted to our City Council at an early day, as a substitute for the one before passed, which will fully meet the case, whether

your contribution shall be Sixty Thousand Dollars, or a larger sum.

I am very truly yours,

EDWIN SAWYER WALKER.

To the above, response was made as follows:

"ANDREW CARNEGIE,  
5 West 51st Street,  
New York.

March 8th, 1901.

E. S. WALKER, Esq.,  
Springfield, Ill.

DEAR SIR—On the representations of Springfield, Mr. Carnegie amends his offer to the city to read as follows: If the city of Springfield will furnish a suitable site and agree to maintain a Free Public Library at a cost of not less than \$7,500 a year, Mr. Carnegie will be glad to give \$75,000 for a building. This sum Mr. Carnegie thinks sufficient for the population of the city.

Respectfully yours,

JAS. BERTRAM,  
P. Secretary."

"ANDREW CARNEGIE,  
5 West 51st Street.

New York, 11th March, 1901.

E. S. WALKER, Esq.,  
Springfield, Ill.

DEAR SIR—Mr. Carnegie has just noticed in yours of 16th Feby. that it is proposed to call the Library the "Lincoln-Carnegie Memorial Library," and he wishes me to say, that he would consider it desecration to have any name linked with that of Lincoln. He trusts that the Library will be known as the 'LINCOLN LIBRARY,' not the 'Lincoln Memorial Library,' as Lincoln needs no 'Memorial,' being one of the dozen supremely great rulers of men that the world has seen.

Respectfully yours,

JAS. BERTRAM,  
P. Secretary."

To meet the conditions of Mr. Carnegie's proposed gift, as fully expressed in his letter of March 8th, the following

ordinance was prepared, presented to the City Council, and passed by unanimous vote, and the Joint Committee provided for by the ordinance was on the 21st of March duly appointed.

The following were the members of the Committee:

Edwin S. Walker, Bluford Wilson, and H. W. Clendenin, representing the citizens at large; Geo. N. Black, C. C. Brown and Albert Salzenstein, three members of the Board of Directors of the Public Library, and James R. Miller, Harry O. McGrue and Thomas White, members of the City Council.

#### AN ORDINANCE

Providing for the Maintenance of a Public Library.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Springfield:

SECTION 1. That in consideration of the generous proffer by Mr. Andrew Carnegie, in his letter of March 8th, 1901, to Mr. Edwin S. Walker, of the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars for the purpose of erecting a Public Library Building in this city, the city of Springfield hereby gratefully accepts the gift, under the terms proposed, and agrees to furnish a suitable site for said building, the location to be decided upon by a Joint Committee, to consist of three members of the City Council, to be appointed by the Mayor, three members representing the citizens of Springfield at large, to be appointed by the Mayor, and three members of the Board of Directors of the Public Library; said site to be paid for by the citizens of Springfield.

SECTION 2. That for the maintenance of said Public Library the City of Springfield hereby agrees, pledges its good faith, and guarantees the appropriation of at least seven thousand five hundred dollars annually, for all time to come, for the maintenance of a Free Public Library in said building.

SECTION 3. That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor.

SECTION 4. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances conflicting with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Passed March 18th, 1901.

Approved March 21st, 1901.

R. T. HICKMAN,  
City Clerk.

L. E. WHEELER,  
Mayor.



SPRINGFIELD, ILL., April 11th, 1901.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE.

DEAR SIR—Your kind favors of the 8th, and 11th, of March were duly received.

In behalf of the citizens of Springfield, I beg to tender to you their most grateful thanks for your generous offer of \$75,000 for the erection of a Public Library Building in this city.

To meet the conditions connected with your offer, the City Council on the 18th day of March passed an ordinance providing for the maintenance of a Public Library, a certified copy of which I herewith enclose, as also a copy of your letter upon which the ordinance is based.

In accordance with your expressed wishes, in your favor of March 11th, the name, "LINCOLN LIBRARY," will be the name of the institution, thus carrying to coming generations the tribute of the present age to the worth of

"The kindly-earnest, brave, foreseeing man,  
Sagacious, patient, dreading praise, not blame,  
New birth of our new soil, the first American."

In accordance with the terms of the ordinance, a committee of nine members was duly appointed to locate a suitable site for the building, and they are now attending to the duty assigned them, as will appear from the enclosed advertisement for "Proposals for Library Site."

When the site has been selected and secured, I will further advise you.

I am very truly yours,

EDWIN S. WALKER,

Chairman of the Committee.

#### PROPOSALS FOR LIBRARY SITE.

The joint committee appointed to locate the site for the Lincoln Library, for the erection of which Mr. Andrew Carnegie contributes the sum of \$75,000, will receive propositions in writing from parties having sites to offer.

Bids to be received not later than 12 o'clock noon on the 10th day of April. Said propositions must state the location



with size of lot, with price at which it will be sold for library purposes, with guarantee of title to the same.

Propositions may be addressed to Mr. J. R. Miller, Odd Fellows' building, corner Fourth and Monroe streets.

By order of the committee.

EDWIN S. WALKER, Chairman.

JAS. R. MILLER, Secretary.

April 1, 1901.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., April 1st, 1901.

MR. E. S. WALKER, City.

DEAR SIR—You are hereby requested to meet with the other members selected for the purpose of considering a site for our new Library Building, which meeting will be held in the City Hall, Council Chamber, at four o'clock this P. M.

Very respectfully,

H. O. McGRUE,

Acting Mayor.

The committee on selection of site for the Library Building met at the City Hall on the first day of April, 1901, at the call of the Mayor.

Present: Jas. R. Miller, Harry O. McGrue and Thomas White, of the City Council; C. C. Brown, George N. Black and Albert Salzenstein, of the Library Board; and H. W. Clendenin, with Edwin S. Walker, on the part of the citizens, Mr. Bluford Wilson being absent. On motion, Edwin S. Walker was selected as Chairman and Jas. R. Miller, Secretary. On motion of Mr. Black, it was voted that an advertisement calling for proposals of sites be inserted in the daily papers, and that bids submitted be opened and considered on April 10th.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment, when, on motion, the further time of one week was given for the receiving of proposals for the site of the Library.

At the meeting on the 17th of April pursuant to adjournment, thirteen proposals of sites were presented and considered.

Further adjournments were had to April 23d, May 7th.

and 14th, on which latter date the committee met at the City Hall at 2 P. M., with all members present. Mr. Bluford Wilson, representing the citizens, having resigned his place on account of his recent bereavement in the death of his son, a student in Yale College, his place was filled by the appointment of Mr. Herman Pierik; and Mr. C. C. Brown having resigned, his place was filled by the appointment of Mr. John W. Bunn, of the Board of Directors of the Library.

The various proposals and sites having been fully considered, on motion of Mr. Pierik, a vote was taken by ballot, which indicated the preference of the committee to be the Vincent lot, on the northeast corner of Seventh street and Capitol avenue. Final action, however, was postponed until May 20, when, at a special meeting, the terms of purchase having been agreed upon with Dr. Vincent, on motion of Mr. Clendenin, the Vincent property was, by unanimous vote, chosen as the site for the Library Building, and the following report ordered made to the Library Board:

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., June 4th, 1901.

*To the Board of Directors of the Springfield Public Library:*

GENTLEMEN—The committee appointed pursuant to the provisions of an ordinance passed by the City Council March 18, 1901, and approved by the Mayor March 21st, 1901, entitled "An Ordinance providing for the maintenance of a Public Library Building," to be erected at a cost of not exceeding \$75,000 proffered to the City of Springfield by Mr. Andrew Carnegie for the erection of the same, hereby sets forth that, pursuant to the duties prescribed, and after full consideration of the several sites proposed, they have decided upon the three lots located on the northeast corner of Seventh street and Capitol avenue, known as the Dr. Vincent property, being 120 by 157 feet in area.

The committee further sets forth that the purchase price of said site is \$18,000, to be paid in cash within sixty days from and after the 18th day of May, 1901.

In accordance with the provisions of Mr. Carnegie's gift of \$75,000, and of the ordinance of March 18, 1901, passed in

accordance therewith, this "site is to be paid for by the citizens of Springfield."

At the date last named above, there was no provision of law whereby the money required to pay for a site for a Public Library Building could be raised, otherwise than by a public subscription. But the language of the ordinance did not restrict the raising of the necessary funds to that method, as it only said the "site is to be *paid for* by the citizens of Springfield," thus leaving the entire amount of \$75,000, Mr. Carnegie's gift, to go to the erection and furnishing of the Library Building.

On the 20th day of March, 1901, a bill was introduced in the Legislature of Illinois, which subsequently was enacted into law, and is now in full force, providing, among other things, that "whenever any Board of Directors of any Public Library, organized under the provisions of the State Law, shall determine to *purchase a site for a Library Building or to accumulate a fund to pay for a Library Site*, they may do so as follows:

"The Directors shall cause an estimate to be made of the cost of such site, and then determine the number of years over which they will spread the collection of the cost of said site, not exceeding twenty years; and shall make a record of their said proceedings, and transmit a copy thereof to the City Council for its approval.

If the City Council shall approve the action of the Board, the Board shall divide the total cost of said site into as many parts as they shall determine to spread the cost of the collection thereof, and shall certify the amount of one of said parts to the City Council, each and every year, during the time, or term, over which they shall have determined to spread the collection of the cost of said site.

The City Council, on receiving the said last mentioned certificate, shall in its next annual appropriation bill, include the amount so certified, and shall levy and collect a tax to pay the same, with the other general taxes of the City; Provided, The said levy shall not exceed five (5) mills on the dollar in any one year and shall not be levied oftener than for the number of years into which the Library Board shall have divided the costs of said site, and when said sum herein mentioned shall have been collected, the said tax shall cease."

To effectuate and complete its duties, in locating a site for the Public Library of the City of Springfield, the com-

mittee appointed therefor respectfully petitions the Board of Directors of the Springfield Public Library to immediately take the proper legal steps, as indicated above, to provide for the raising of the sum of \$18,000, and recommends that the said sum be divided into four equal parts, to be collected upon assessments for the years 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, respectively.

All of which is respectfully submitted by the Joint Committee upon location of a Site for the Public Library in Springfield, to be known as the "*Lincoln Library*."

EDWIN S. WALKER, Chairman.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., May 20, 1901.

*To the Honorable Mayor and City Council:*

GENTLEMEN—The Committee on Location of a Library site respectfully report that at a meeting of the said Committee, held this day, they, by unanimous vote, selected the property of Dr. J. A. Vincent, on Seventh street, as such site. By vote of the committee, the undersigned was instructed to present to your Honorable Body the following report of an ordinance, and ask its adoption, in order that the Library Building, for the erection of which Mr. Andrew Carnegie has proffered to the city the sum of Seventy-five Thousand Dollars, may be commenced at the earliest possible day, and erected this year.

EDWIN S. WALKER,  
Chairman Library Site Committee.

Council Chamber,  
City Hall.

Alderman McGrue moved that the above communication be placed on file. Carried.

Upon motion of Alderman White, the rules were suspended for the passage of an ordinance appointing a Joint Committee of nine members to procure plans, contract for, and attend to the erection of a Public Library Building, and the complete furnishing of same.

The ordinance was passed by unanimous vote.



## THE ORDINANCE.

An ordinance appointing a Joint Committee of nine members to procure plans, contract for, and attend to the erection of a Public Library Building, and the complete furnishing of the same.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Springfield:

SECTION 1. That John W. Bunn, Edwin S. Walker, George N. Black, Harry O. McGrue, H. W. Clendenin, Thomas White, Herman Pierik, J. R. Miller and Albert Salzenstein are hereby appointed a *Joint Committee to procure and adopt plans, contract for, and attend to the erection of, and the complete furnishing of the same, a Library Building* in the City of Springfield, at a cost of not exceeding \$75,000.00, which sum Mr. Andrew Carnegie, by his letter of March 8th, 1901, has generously proffered to this City, to defray the expense of the erection of said building.

SECTION 2. In accordance with the expressed wish of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, in his letter of March 11th, 1901, to Mr. Edwin S. Walker, the building erected and paid for by his gift shall be known as the "Lincoln Library."

SECTION 3. Mr. Herman Pierik is hereby appointed and constituted the Treasurer of the Committee, to receive from Mr. Andrew Carnegie and receipt for all funds contributed by him, for the erection of said Library Building, as also all funds which may be subscribed in payment for the site of said building, and pay out the same under direction of the Committee.

SECTION 4. The Committee appointed as above shall be entitled to receive out of the fund appropriated to the maintenance of the SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY, for the current year, the sum of not exceeding \$500 to defray the necessary expenses in procuring plans and other expenses pertaining to the duties of their office, and that the Treasurer be required to give bond in the sum of \$20,000.

SECTION 5. That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor.

Passed: May 20, 1901.

Approved: May 20, 1901.

T. R. OWEN,  
City Clerk.

JOHN L. PHILLIPS,  
Mayor.



## COMMITTEE ON PLANS AND BUILDING.

On the 17th of June, the Committee on Plans and Building named in the above ordinance, all the members being present, met at the City Hall, and proceeded to organize for business, when by unanimous vote the following officers were chosen:

EDWIN S. WALKER, Chairman.

JAS. R. MILLER, Secretary.

HERMAN PIERIK, Treasurer.

At a subsequent meeting held on the 27th of June, the Chairman presented a form of "Circular to Architects," with suggestions as to the construction of the proposed Library Building, inviting proposals and plans for the same, offering three prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50, respectively, for the best plans submitted. The circular was adopted, and ordered printed, and it was further ordered that a card be inserted in the daily papers of the city, inviting Architects to submit plans for the building. As to the circular the following will indicate its scope and purpose:

## GENERAL SUGGESTIONS.

"True art in architecture, in indirect ways, educates and enlightens; with subtle suggestion it points to honorable ambitions.

We build for the centuries. We must not forget what is to be done, and must carefully consider how best to do it. The building should be at once substantial and elegant, and truly representative of the best architectural ideas of our time. It should be wisely adapted to our modern methods of library purposes and work, both as a library for reference and study for the scholar, and as a circulating library for the common people."

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., July 6, 1901.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE,

New York, N. Y.

DEAR SIR—Since the date of my last letter to you, of

April 11th, the Committee appointed by the Mayor of Springfield to locate and procure a suitable site for the proposed Library Building have, after the most careful consideration, selected a site centrally located, and contracted for the purchase of the same at a cost of \$18,000.

The deed therefor has already been executed, vesting the title in the City, free from any and all incumbrance.

This much having been accomplished, on the 20th day of May the City Council passed "an ordinance appointing a Joint Committee of nine members to procure plans, contract for, and attend to the erection of a public Library Building, and the complete furnishing of the same," a certified copy of which I enclose herewith.

Pursuant to the furtherance of the work, and the duties assigned the Committee, at its first meeting, held on June 17, 1901, it was duly organized by the election of EDWIN S. WALKER, Chairman, and JAMES R. MILLER, Secretary, with HERMAN PIERIK, Treasurer, to which position he was appointed under Section 3 of the ordinance.

As it was anticipated that the \$75,000 contributed by you for the Library would not be needed at one time, and that not over \$20,000 would be called for in any one installment with which to make payments as the work on the building progresses, the amount of the bond required to be given by the Treasurer, Mr. Pierik, was fixed at \$20,000 by the ordinance.

After careful consideration of the matter of plans for the Library Building, the Committee, on the 1st of July, issued a "Circular to Architects," a copy of which is enclosed herewith, as also a plat showing the site of the building, which is in every respect the most desirable to be found in the City; centrally located, and one that will never be encroached upon by business structures of any kind. Will you kindly advise me as to your plans, or methods of furnishing the money, which you so generously contribute for the building?

It is the purpose of the Committee to proceed to let contracts for its erection, as soon as may be practicable, after the 10th of August.

I am very truly yours,

EDWIN S. WALKER,  
Chairman of Building Committee.

Office of  
ANDREW CARNEGIE,  
Room 325 Carnegie Bldg.,  
Pittsburg, Pa.  
R. A. FRANKS, *Cashier*.

July 9th, 1901.

DEAR SIR—Your favor of the 6th inst., addressed to Mr. Andrew Carnegie, has been referred to the writer for reply; as Mr. Carnegie has gone abroad for the summer, the matter of his gift of \$75,000 to your city for the erection of a Library Building has been left in my charge during his absence.

I find with the papers you enclose, together with those forwarded me by Mr. Carnegie's secretary, that all the conditions of the gift have been complied with, and the funds for the construction of the building are now available.

As to the method of making payments would say that upon receipt of requests signed by the Treasurer and one other member of your Library Committee, and accompanied by architect's requisition, I will be pleased to make remittances to the Treasurer, in sums as needed from time to time, during the process of construction.

Yours very truly,

R. A. FRANKS.

Mr. Edwin S. Walker,  
Chairman Building Committee,  
Public Library, Springfield, Ill.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., July 12, 1901.

MR. R. A. FRANKS.

DEAR SIR—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 9th instant relative to the matter of the "Lincoln Library," to be erected in this City, through the generous benefaction of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, whom you represent.

Now that the preliminaries are all closed, it is the purpose of the Committee to proceed with the work without unnecessary delay, and to erect such a building as will do credit to this opening year of the new century, and stand for ages to come, as an index to the skill of the architect, and to the large-hearted beneficence of its founder, by whose gift its erection is made possible.

Yours very truly,

EDWIN S. WALKER.

The "Circular to Architects" was printed and copies sent to some twenty Architects in Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and other cities.

The time for the preparation of plans having been extended to September 13th, 1901, the Committee met on that day, at the call of the Chairman, to consider the plans submitted.

Of these there were ten examined and discussed. After extended consultation, on a motion of Mr. Pierik, a sub-committee of three, consisting of Messrs. Black, McGrue and Salzenstein, was appointed to examine the plans more in detail, and report which, in their opinion, were the best three of the ten plans submitted.

At a meeting of the Committee held on Sept. 30th, the sub-committee reported three plans as the best of the ten submitted for examination, which Report was received, but without any action thereon being taken. On motion of Mr. Pierik, the Committee adjourned to meet on October 7th, at 2 o'clock P. M., and the Chairman was requested to invite the authors of the three plans named by the sub-committee to be present at the meeting for the purpose of explaining the same.

On October 7th the Committee met in the Odd Fellows' Building at 2 o'clock P. M. All the members were present.

The invited Architects—Samuel J. Hanes, Springfield, Ill., Herbert E. Hewitt, Peoria, Ill., Alex. A. Fuller, Chicago, Ill.—came before the Committee, in the order named, and explained their plans fully and in detail.

At 4 o'clock, these gentlemen having retired, the merits of the several plans were discussed at some length, when it was decided to postpone further action at that time, and by vote it was decided that the plans be sent to Mr. Edwin H. Anderson, the experienced Librarian of the Carnegie Library at Pittsburg, for examination and advice, as to which of the three would be best adapted to library purposes.

At 4:30 o'clock, on motion of Mr. Black, the Committee adjourned, to meet at the call of the Chairman.



A few minutes after the adjournment, two of the Architects, Messrs. Hewitt, and Fuller, called at the office of the Chairman for information as to the action of the Committee in the award of prizes.

They were informed that no decision had been arrived at, as there were some matters to be previously attended to, and it would be a week, or ten days, before any award would be made. They were not informed of the action of the Committee, in ordering the plans sent to Mr. Anderson for examination and advice.

Half an hour thereafter H. O. McGrue, a member of the Committee, accompanied by Architect Hanes, called upon the Chairman, saying that the Architects protested against the sending of the plans to Mr. Anderson for examination. *He was told that no Architects would dictate to the Committee as to the mode of the procedure in the selection of plans for the Library.*

As the said member of the Committee and another, Thos. White, had not favored the action of submitting the plans to Mr. Anderson, they joined hands in an effort to have that action reversed. Mr. McGrue, at this interview, said he was "going to kick and kick hard." He accordingly made an attempt on the following morning, October 8th, to have a meeting of the Committee.

The Chairman being absent from the city, the attempt failed, and the plans were sent to Pittsburg as ordered.

From that time forward, the two members of the Committee above named, *being unable to dictate and control its action, failed to act in harmony with the other members*, and the results of their action thenceforth—they both being members of the City Council—will appear in the record hereafter.

Having examined the three sets of plans sent to him for examination, Mr. Anderson returned them with the following report:



Oct. 19, 1901.

Mr. Edwin S. Walker,  
Chairman Lincoln Library,  
Springfield, Ill.

MY DEAR SIR—Great pressure of business here has prevented my replying sooner to your letter of the 8th inst. The three sets of plans arrived a day or two after your letter and I have looked them over as opportunity offered. I cannot tell you how much I regret the fact that I cannot make a favorable report upon any of these plans. \* \* \* \* \*

Allow me to congratulate you on what you say under general suggestions in your "Circular to Architects." That, it seems to me, embodies the correct ideal.

I am not at all anxious to have you take my advice in regard to your plans, but I think I ought to say to you that, if the responsibility were mine, I would have the whole subject reconsidered. If you should reconsider, may I suggest that you secure the advice of Mr. William R. Eastman, Inspector of Libraries for the State of New York, Capitol Building, Albany, New York. Mr. Eastman has made a special study of Library buildings and has, perhaps, more time than I for the consideration of plans.

I return your plans by Adams Express.

Very sincerely,

EDWIN H. ANDERSON.

On November 5th the Committee met, pursuant to adjournment, at the call of the Chairman, at 2 o'clock P. M.; all the members were present. The foregoing letter having been read, the business in order was to take further action with reference to the plans for the Library.

After considerable discussion, on motion of Mr. Salzenstein, the Chairman was instructed to appoint a Committee of two, to act in conjunction with himself, to present a plan for action to the Committee. Geo. N. Black and H. W. Clendenin were so appointed, and the meeting was adjourned.

On November 13th the Committee met at the call of the Chairman, eight members being present. The Special Committee reported the following:

"Resolved, That we recommend that the award be made

of the several prizes, and paid, and that inasmuch as none of the plans submitted have been judged suitable for adoption and use, we recommend that all such plans be set aside, and a

#### SUB-COMMITTEE,

consisting of the Chairman, Edwin S. Walker, John W. Bunn and Albert Salzenstein, be appointed to select and secure the services of some competent Architect, who has had experience in the planning of Public Libraries, of the class which the Lincoln Library is intended to be, to prepare plans for the same as soon as may be practicable."

The Committee further recommended that the first prize of \$200 be awarded to Samuel J. Hanes, of Springfield; the second prize of \$100 to Herbert E. Hewitt, of Peoria; and the third prize to Fuller & Stevens, of Chicago.

The Report having been fully considered, further action thereon was deferred until the next meeting, held on November 16th, at which time it was adopted, and the Committee adjourned, to meet at the call of the Chairman.

On November 18th Alderman Thos. White introduced the following:

"An order, that an Ordinance, passed by this Council May 20th, 1901, is hereby repealed," which was read and referred to the Ordinance Committee. This Order was supposed to be aimed at the Ordinance appointing the Building Committee of the Library. It shows the first step taken in disclosing the fact that the two Aldermanic members of that Committee had failed to dominate and control its action.

The effect of the order was similar to that of the Pope's bull against the comet.

From that time onward, they spared no effort to embarrass and hinder the work of the Committee, whom they could not control. But the Sub-Committee proceeded with the work assigned to it.

On December 2d Mr. White introduced the following:

## AN ORDINANCE

To repeal an ordinance entitled "An ordinance appointing a Joint Committee of nine members, to procure plans, contract for, and attend to the erection of a Public Library Building and the complete furnishing of same, passed May 20th, 1901, and approved May 20th, 1901.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Springfield:

SECTION 1. That an ordinance entitled "An ordinance appointing a Joint Committee of nine members to procure plans, contract for, and attend to the erection of a Public Library Building and the complete furnishing of same," passed May 20th, 1901, approved May 20th, 1901, be, and the same is, hereby repealed.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

This was referred to the Ordinance Committee, and by that Committee to the Corporation Counsel for examination and report.

On the 12th of January, 1902, the Ordinance was referred back to the City Council, with the written opinion of the Corporation Counsel, and passed.

The Sub-Committee, unmoved by the above action of the City Council, prosecuted the work which it had in hand, as will appear in a Report which follows, and *continued to be recognized by Mr. Carnegie, as acting under his expressed wishes and authority, in its method of procedure, in the selection of plans for the Library.*

When the legality of the ordinance, appointing the Committee on plans and building, was first called in question, the Chairman, for the information of those "whom it might concern," furnished the following to the press:

Editor of the State Register:

It seems that a good deal of misapprehension has been indulged in in regard to Andrew Carnegie's method of furnishing funds to pay for the erection of library buildings to be erected through his benefactions.

In order, once for all, to set that matter at rest, as it relates to the Lincoln Library in this city, the following letter ought to suffice:

EDWIN S. WALKER.

"Office of  
ANDREW CARNEGIE,  
Pittsburg, Pa.  
R. A. FRANKS, Solicitor.

July 9, 1901.

DEAR SIR—Your favor of the 6th inst. addressed to Mr. Andrew Carnegie, has been referred to the writer for reply, as Mr. Carnegie has gone abroad for the summer and the matter of his gift of \$75,000 to your city for the erection of a Library Building has been left in my charge during his absence.

I find with the papers which you enclose, together with those forwarded to me by Mr. Carnegie's secretary, that all the conditions of the gift have been complied with, and the funds for the construction of the building are now available.

As to the method of making payments, would say that upon receipt of requests signed by the Treasurer and one other member of your Library Committee, and accompanied by Architect's requisition, I will be pleased to make remittances to the Treasurer in sums as needed from time to time during the process of construction.

Yours very truly,

R. A. FRANKS.

Mr. Edwin S. Walker,  
Chairman Building Committee,  
Public Library, Springfield, Ill."

The Sub-Committee on plans and the securing an architect, appointed on November 16th, continued the work assigned to it.

Notwithstanding the repeal of the ordinance, correspondence with Mr. Carnegie was continued and on the 20th of January the Chairman received from him the following:

"As three sets of plans have been submitted to Mr. Anderson, none of which he was able to approve, please submit to him the set you consider desirable before proceeding further."



This being subsequent to the repeal of the ordinance, of which Mr. Carnegie had been advised, shows conclusively that he paid no attention thereto, but continued to recognize the Committee, which had from the beginning had the business in hand.

The question which the Corporation Counsel, in his opinion, discussed was, "Is the appointment of the Committee in this case outside of the members of the Council illegal?"

To this his answer is in the following terms: Referring to Chapter 81, Section 1-5-9, he says: The statute gives to the Board of Directors of the Public Library exclusive control of the expenditure of all moneys collected for the Library fund and of the construction of any Library Building; such moneys to be deposited in the treasury of the city, that is with the city treasurer. This applies not only to the taxes levied under Section 1, but to donations of money for the benefit of such Library, according to the terms of the gift as provided in Section 9.

Not being given to any specific person or persons, in trust for the city, the sum can only be properly paid to the City Treasurer, to be placed to the credit of the Library Fund, and can only be paid out by warrants of the proper officers of the city upon proper authenticated vouchers of the Board of Directors of the Public Library.

The ordinance of May 20, 1901, is not legal in that,

By Section 1, it attempts to confer on a Joint Committee powers belonging by statute to the Board of Directors of the Public Library; that,

By Section 3, it directs money donated to the city of Springfield for Library purposes to be paid to a person other than the city treasurer and authorizes such money to be paid out in a way different from that provided in the statute; and that,

By Section 4, it directs a payment to be made out of the



Library fund, which, legally, is not under its control, and for a purpose not within its powers.

The legal effect of repealing this ordinance should be to leave the Board of Directors of the Public Library in exclusive control, as required by statute, of the Library site, of the preparations of plans for the new Library Building, of the letting of contracts for and construction of the Building, of the expenditure of all moneys collected to the credit of the Library fund, and of Mr. Carnegie's gift of seventy-five thousand dollars donated for the erection of a free Public Library Building on said site, such funds to be drawn upon by the proper officers of the city upon properly authenticated vouchers of the Library Board.

The appointment of the Joint Committee, whether outside or within the members of the Council (what ever that may mean) was, under the circumstances, illegal."

#### A CONTRARY OPINION.

The ground taken by the Chairman of the Committee appointed under the ordinance of May 20, 1901, was from the outset that where the statute provides that the Board of Directors of Public Libraries "shall have exclusive control of all expenditures of money to the credit of the Library fund, and the construction of any Library Building, and all moneys received for such Library shall be deposited in the treasury of said city to the credit of the Library Fund," reference is there made, under a strictly legal construction of the statute *to monies raised by taxation and by taxation only*. This is evident from the fact that the last clause of the same section of the statute under consideration, in distinction from monies received from the levy of taxes, as above noted, provides that the Directors of any Public Library "may accept donations of money, books, or property, made by any person, and shall hold the same under the terms of the donation, in trust for the purposes above set forth."

This can be construed only as relating to cases where do-

nations may be made directly to the Library Board; they "may accept" such and hold them in trust. *Mr. Carnegie's gift was not made to the Library Board, but to the City of Springfield.*

There is nothing in the language of the statute which can be construed as giving such Directors of any Library Board any control over any monies which the donor may have chosen to give to a city, for the specific purpose of erecting a Library Building, and entrusting the expenditure of the same to a Committee of Citizens, duly appointed by City Ordinance, with one of the members constituted as the Treasurer.

Mr. Carnegie proffered his gift for a specific purpose and under specific conditions. These conditions were accepted, by the passage of two separate ordinances, by the City Council. Certified copies of the two were sent to Mr. Carnegie, and upon these the contract between the city and himself was based, and closed, on the 9th of July, 1901, in the terms of his letter of that date, which appears in these pages—saying: "All the conditions of the gift have been complied with."

The gift of Mr. Carnegie was in no sense subject to the statutes of Illinois in regard to the method of its application to the accomplishment of the end in view, in its bestowment. As in all other instances, he chose his own methods for Springfield, notwithstanding the opinion of the learned Corporation Counsel, that the Seventy-five Thousand Dollars, given for a specific purpose, "must be deposited in the Treasury of the City, that is, with the City Treasurer, and such funds could only be drawn upon by the proper officers of the city." Not a dollar of the money has ever been deposited in the City Treasury, or in any way made subject to draft by any City Officer. The Library Building having been completed, the money has all been paid in remittances, "upon requisition of the Architect, in sums as needed, from time to time, during the process of construction," and applied to the payment of the contractor. Thus the interpretation of the law, by the

Chairman of the Committee, as above set forth, has at length found its justification.

The further action of the Committee appointed under the Ordinance of May 20, 1901, through its Sub-Committee, appears in the following communication:

“SPRINGFIELD, ILL., Feb. 6, 1902.

GEORGE N. BLACK, ESQ.,

*President of the Board of Directors of the Springfield Public Library.*

I herewith present to your Honorable Board the report of Special Sub-Committee of the Committee on plans and building of the ‘Lincoln Library,’ appointed on the 13th day of November last, setting forth the action of said Special Sub-Committee up to the 13th day of January, 1902.

Pursuant to authorization, as therein set forth, Mr. Mauran, of the firm of Mauran, Russell & Garden, has prepared completed plans and elevation for the ‘Lincoln Library,’ and has them now ready for presentation for final acceptance.

In view of the action of the City Council of the City of Springfield, on the night of the 13th of January, 1902, repealing the ordinance passed on the 20th day of May, 1901, under which a committee of nine citizens was appointed as a Committee on plans and building of the ‘Lincoln Library,’ I wrote to Mr. Carnegie on the 15th day of January, setting forth the then present status of affairs, and on the 20th day of January received from him a reply, in which he said:

‘As three sets of plans have been submitted to Mr. Anderson, none of which he was able to approve, please submit to him the set you now consider desirable, before proceeding further.’

Pursuant to this request the plans have been submitted to Mr. Anderson, and after a full and careful examination by him, returned with his full approval.

Mr. John L. Mauran, the Architect, is present with the plans and will be pleased to exhibit them to your Board, at your pleasure.

Yours truly,

EDWIN S. WALKER,  
Chairman of Committee.”

## SUB-COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Sub-Committee's report is as follows:

"SPRINGFIELD, ILL., Jan. 13th, 1902.

Report of Sub-Committee of the Committee on Plans and Building of the Lincoln Library:

Your Sub-Committee, consisting of the Chairman, Edwin S. Walker, John W. Bunn, and Albert Salzenstein, appointed on Nov. 13, 1901, 'to select and secure the services of some competent architect, who had experience in the planning of Public Libraries of the class which the Lincoln Library is intended to be, to prepare plans for the same as soon as may be practicable,' respectfully makes the following report:

On the 15th day of November your Committee met in consultation and the names of several architects were brought up for consideration. After a very full canvassing of the matter, the Committee decided to invite the firm of Mauran, Russell & Garden, of St. Louis, to meet them in conference upon the earliest day practicable.

Correspondence was accordingly opened with those gentlemen, and on the 26th day of November, Mr. John L. Mauran, representing the firm of architects above named, met with your Committee at the Leland Hotel. A session of two hours was held, during which time a very full investigation was made of the professional standing, experience and practical qualifications of said firm of architects, in the planning and construction of Library Buildings of the class which the Lincoln Library is intended to be.

As a result of this conference and investigation, upon motion made by Mr. Salzenstein, seconded by Mr. Bunn, and unanimously agreed to by your Committee, the firm of Mauran, Russell & Garden was selected and employed to prepare plans for the Lincoln Library as soon as practicable upon preliminary terms more fully set forth in the accompanying paper. (Form of contract for architect.)

In accordance with the arrangement thus made, the said firm proceeded to formulate plans to be submitted to your Committee, tentatively, for examination.

On the 30th day of December three ground and second-story plans were presented to the Committee by Mr. Mauran, but no elevations accompanied either plan.

After a very careful and full consideration of the three,



one of them was set aside, as the cost of its erection would exceed \$75,000, and for other reasons.

The other two plans were each found, in the judgment of your Committee, to have special features of adaptation for a Library of the best modern construction and use.

In order to decide between the respective merits of these two plans, it was decided by the Committee that they be sent to the Library Bureau of Chicago for examination and report.

This Bureau represents the widest experience and most thorough knowledge of modern Library construction in our time.

The plans were sent, carefully examined, and while both were highly commended, one, which at the outset was most favored by members of the Committee, was decided to be admirable, and fully recommended as in every respect adapted to Library purposes and work.

On Jan. 9th, 1902, Mr. Mauran appeared again before the Committee and with the plans thus recommended, presented two preliminary elevations—one the front elevation on Seventh street, the other a perspective, showing the proposed Building from the southwest.

After a careful examination of the plans and elevations together, your Committee, represented by Messrs. Walker and Salzenstein, and in the absence of Mr. Bunn from the city, by Mr. Brice, the Librarian, present by invitation as an experienced Librarian, were satisfied that a Library Building constructed upon the plans proposed, would fully meet the requirements of the city, as a building at once substantial and elegant, and truly representative of the best architectural ideas of our times, as well as being wisely adapted to our best modern methods of Library purposes and work, and as a Library for reference and study for the scholar, and as a circulating Library for the common people.

The architect, Mr. Mauran, was therefore authorized to prepare his more complete plans and elevations, to be ready some day this present week, for presentation and final acceptance, so that the preparations of the full working details may be made without delay, contracts let, and the work of construction commenced at an early day.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

EDWIN S. WALKER,  
JOHN W. BUNN,  
ALBERT SALZENSTEIN,  
Committee."

Inasmuch as the Committee which was still recognized by Mr. Carnegie, as acting under his direction, in regard to the submission of plans to his representative, Mr. Anderson, for his advice, had practically selected the Architect, and secured the approval of his plans for the Library Building, the members of the Sub-Committee were quite willing to turn over to the Library Board the work of carrying out the provisional contract, which it had made, with the Architects, Mauran, Russel & Garden, and thus rest upon its laurels.

The original Committee still awaits the call of the Chairman, for the next meeting. That stands postponed to the indefinite future.

#### THE LIBRARY BOARD.

At a meeting of the Library Board, held on the 6th of February, 1902, the foregoing Report was taken up for consideration, and accepted. The following from the minutes of that meeting:

#### VOTE OF THANKS.

"On motion of Dr. Wm. Jayne, the thanks of the Library Board are hereby presented to Mr. EDWIN S. WALKER for his successful efforts in securing the liberal donation from Mr. Carnegie, for the erection of a Public Library Building, in the City of Springfield."

The motion was adopted, by unanimous vote of the Board.

GEO. N. BLACK, Pres.

JAMES P. BRYCE, Sec'y.

The matter of adopting the plans was taken up at 9:30 o'clock P. M. Mr. John L. Mauran, of the firm of Mauran, Russell & Garden, was present with his completed plans, which, after an extended discussion, were adopted by the Library Board.

Thus the work of the Committee appointed by Ordinance of the City Council, on May 20, 1901, was ended, and the

erection of the Library Building committed thereafter to other hands.

In concluding this story of the inception of the enterprise for the erection of the LINCOLN LIBRARY, it is but justice to state that every dollar of expense of the Committee, including the three prizes, amounting to \$350.00, and \$54.00 for printing, postage, express charges, and advertising, was paid by one of its members, MR. JOHN W. BUNN; and not a single dollar authorized by the Ordinance to be drawn from the Library Fund for that purpose was ever called for.

For the six members of the Committee, not Aldermanic, who worked in harmony, with unselfish devotion to the public interests, the highest regard is cherished by the Chairman.

Of this number MR. JAMES R. MILLER, who served as Secretary, with high ideals of public service, gave himself to the last to the performance of the duties of his trust.

He has not survived to see the completed Library Building. He departed this life on the 17th of April, 1902. In private life and public service, in all his actions, he bore the stamp of purity and honesty. The Records of the work of the Committee, which he kept, will be preserved in this Library as a memorial of his service.

Now that the Library Building has been completed, a structure "substantial and elegant, and truly representative of the best architectural ideals of our time," the Committee which at first took the work in hand, as set forth in these pages, finds full compensation for any service rendered, in the consciousness that this generation is building, not for to-day alone, but for all future time.

EDWIN S. WALKER,

Chairman of Committee

On Plans and Building of Lincoln Library.

MAY 10, 1904.

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